

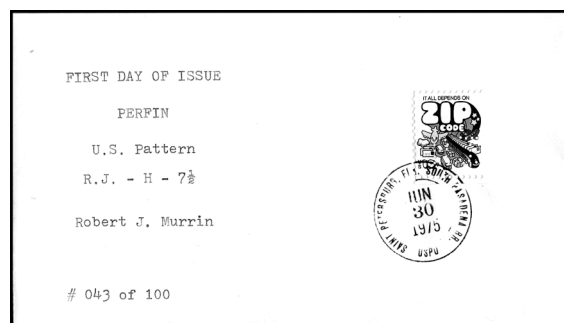
Perfin First Day of Use Covers

Bob Szymaski (LM#145)

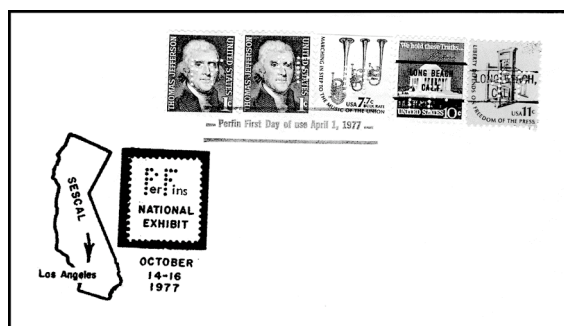
As perfin collectors we have concocted all types of lists for our various collecting interests. There are pattern lists, issue lists, ECU lists, have- and want-lists, synoptic lists, position lists, and the forever "out-of-date" and "I know I have it somewhere" lists. But here is one you may not have thought of - but might find somewhat interesting and forming a collection of these items may just peak your interest.

Why just collect "First Day of Issue" covers of various US stamps? You are a perfin collector, so what could be more natural than collecting the "First Day of Perforator Use" covers of any US pattern! Shown here are thirteen perfin covers representing seventeen different perfin patterns that I have in my collection. I surmise that several others, especially the personal perfins may have "First Day of Use" covers and I hope that anyone with one in their possession or knowledge of any not on this list might let me know of them.

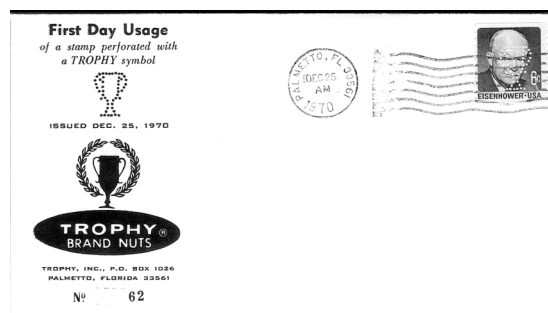
Presented below in order of first date of use are my 13 FDOU covers.



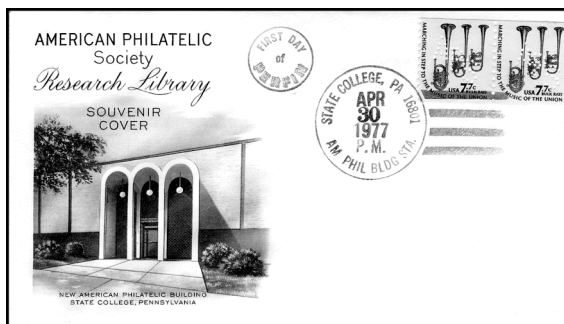
Jun 30, 1975 - R94.7P "R.J."



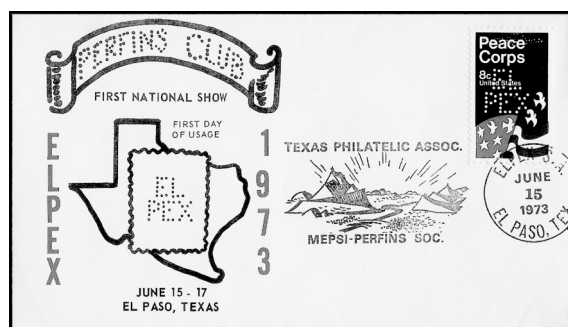
Apr 1, 1977 - P80.1.2.3.4.5P "PF"



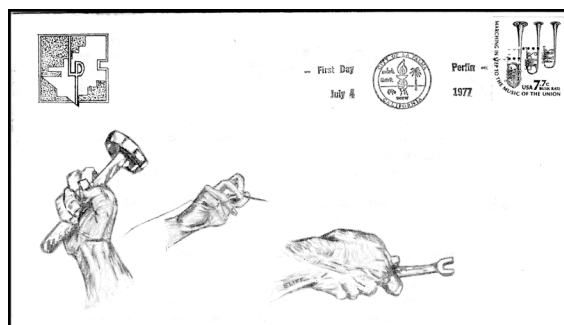
Dec 25, 1970 - Des 46P "Trophy"



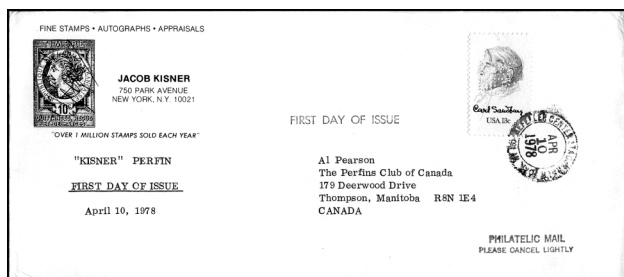
Apr 30, 1977 - A215.5P "APS"



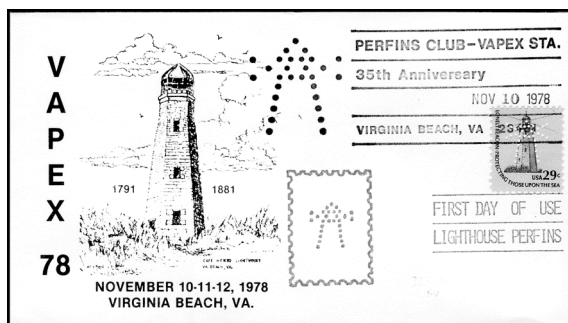
Jun 15, 1973 - E70.5 "EL/PEX"



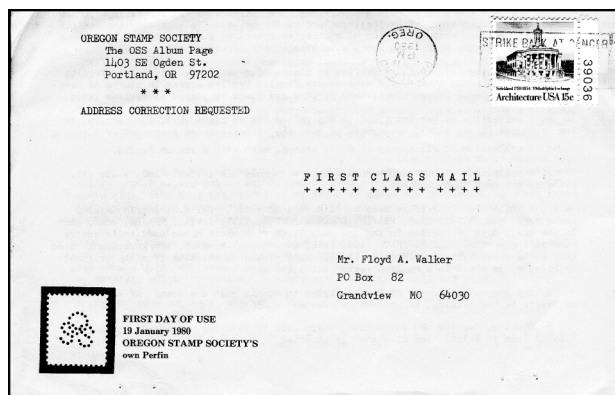
Jul 4, 1977 - L130.5RP "LP"



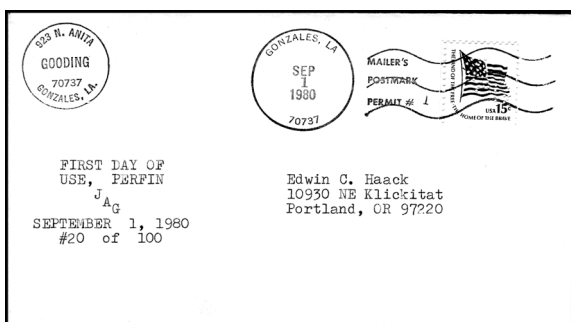
Apr 10, 1978 - K37.5P "KIS/NER"



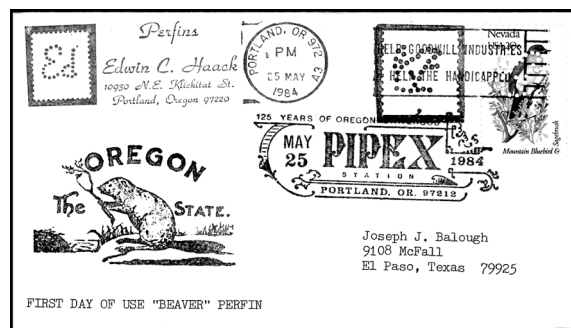
Nov 10, 1978 - Des 50P "Lighthouse"



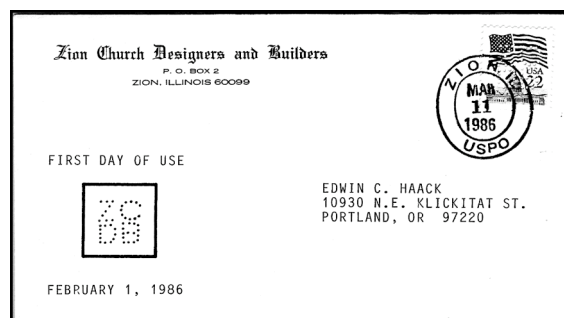
Jan 19, 1980 - O70.5P "OSS"



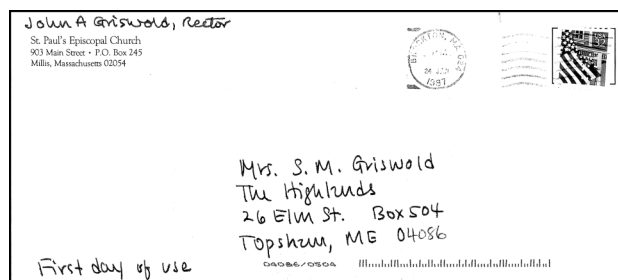
Sep 1, 1980 - J3.5P "JAG"(* [by Jack Gooding])



May 25, 1984 - Des 52P "Beaver"



Feb 1, 1986 - Z1.2 "ZC/DB"



Jan 24, 1997 - J3.5P "JAG"(* [by John Griswold])

Only the "Trophy" Nut Company and Zion Church Designers and Builders could be considered to be commercially used perfins. All other are certainly philatelic or personal in nature.

I have only chosen to represent US perfins although foreign covers do exist. The French EIPA30 perfin (in Scott# C5a & C6b) exists on FDOU covers and, although I collect France, I really can't show you one as I do not possess it. (Check your Scott Catalog for a valuation and you will probably realize why!)

(*) Lastly, there is a very interesting story behind the "JAG" perforator, one that I would like to share with everyone as one of the all time feel good stories. When John A. Gooding, the original owner of the "JAG" perforator passed away, his collection was

handled by former President Dick Mewhinney and the perforator remained in his care and custody. In a visit to Dick's home, I was shown this and another "wheelchair" perforator which Dick uses.

Several weeks later my good friend and new fellow perfin collector Rev John A. Griswold and I were talking and John wanted to show me something. He had seen the "JAG" perfin in the US Catalog and wanted to know if I had a copy as these were his initials. I quickly gave John a copy from my duplicates and relayed this conversation to Dick

Mewhinney inquiring if the "JAG" perforator might be for sale and at what amount. I wish I could convey John's amazement when I next called him with the information that he could obtain the perforator! Maybe a kid in a candy store with a rich uncle best describes his feelings. And that is how we have two first days of issue for the same perforator!

Note: I have duplicates of several covers should anyone be interested in this type of collection, please feel free to contact me.